(d) BEML has not been importing any defence item/machine from USA and, at present, does not have any plan to do so.

(e) Yes, Sir.

Radical changes in force structure of Navy

2668. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Navy has called for radical changes in its force structure to revitalise the force;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether Naval force level has not been revitalised since 1964; and

(d) the number of submarines proposed to be added during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) It is not a fact that the Naval force level has not been revitalised since 1964. Over the years much more sophisticated naval platforms have been inducted, on sea, underwater as well as in Naval aviation. The Naval fleet is continuously reviewed and upgradations made depending on threat perceptions and availability of resources. It will not be in the interest of national security to divulge further specific information in this regard.

Agreement between India and Russia

2669. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia propose to sign some agreement to extend the ongoing military-technical co-operation programme during the visit of Russian Premier to India in December, 1998;

(b) if so, the details thereof with full terms and conditions of the agreement;

(c) whether the agreement will ensure fast development of the country in 21st century providing it a place amongst developed Nations;

(d) whether the agreement will help t improve bilateral relations with Pakistan and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if no the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a and (b) The agreement on bilater military-technical cooperation until 201 is part of the package of agreement scheduled for signing during the visit c the Prime Minister of Russia to Indi from December 20-22, 1998. Thi agreement provides for a mechanism fo implementing and monitoring the long term programme of military technica cooperation between the two countries.

(c) The agreement will contribute to al aspects of defence preparedness of th country.

(d) and (c) Do not arise.

रक्षा कर्मियों द्वारा दायर याचिकाएं

2670. श्री जीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला : क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे किः

(क) विगत पांच वर्षों के दौरान सेवारत और सेवानिवृत्त रक्षा कर्मियों द्वारा उच्च न्यायालय में कितनी याचिकाएं दायर की गई और इनमें से कितनी याचिकाएं लम्बित हैं;

(ख) क्या सरकार ने उन रक्षा कर्मियों की शिकायतों के समाधान हेतु एक न्याय अधिकरण की स्थापना की है जो सेवा नियमों और सांस्थानिक तथा हाउस रिमेंड सिस्टम के अंतर्गत दिए गए निर्णयों से संतुष्ट नहीं है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उक्त न्याय-अधिकरण की स्थापना कब तक कर दी जाएगी; और

(घ) सरकार ने इस दिशा में अब तक क्या सकारात्मक दृष्टिकोण अपनाया है?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जार्ज फर्नान्डीज): (क) से (घ) पिछले पांच वर्षों के दौरान सेवारत और सेवानिवृत्त रक्षा कर्मिकों द्वारा दायर की गई याचिकाओं और उच्च न्यायालयों में विचाराधीन याचिकाओं का ब्यौरा इस प्रकार है:—